National Highways in Gujarat

1007. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested for upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar road into National Highway;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to the request; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) 26 proposals for declaration of State roads as National Highways in Gujarat, including the said proposal, had been received and have now been returned to the State Government in June, 2002 for review based on the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the country at present due to fund constraints. The Government may however, consider declaration of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan from amongst the modified proposals to be received from various States keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

National Highways in U.P.

1008. SHRI M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways sanctioned by Government for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount disbursed on National Highways in U.P. during this period;

(c) the number of NHs proposed to be opened/sanctioned by Government during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount sanctioned for each National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]:

(a) During the last three years, 13 State roads were declared as National Highways totalling to a length of 1281 kms.

(b) The details of funds allocated to the State for development and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years are as under:

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
		(Rs. in crores)	
Development	195.19	357.13	615.95
Maintenance	63.28	63.30	60.11

(c) At present there is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the State.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Hindi on registration plates

†1009. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 5384 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Hindi appears to be neglected in the National Capital Region itself;

(b) if so, the necessity on Government's part for spending such a huge amount on the promotion of Hindi; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider the above question keeping in view the aforesaid facts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Due to diversity of languages in the country and also the fact that the working language in different States/UTs is different, the existing system of writing letters of registration mark in English and the figures in Arabic numerals is the best possible option. Use of an additional registration plate displaying letters in any other Indian language mentioned in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution has already been permitted by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.